

Winn health fair to offer fun, flu shots

Laurie Kemp
Winn Public Affairs Officer

Winn Army Community Hospital will host a Health Fair Saturday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the hospital's Patriot Auditorium.

Interactive activities, educational materials and flu shots (for Centers for Disease Control and Prevention eligible beneficiaries) will be available for all ages.

"We wanted to offer our community a chance to get vital health care information in a fun and interactive environment," said Laurie Kemp, event coordinator. "With the deployments coming up, it is extremely important people understand their health care — not only TRICARE, but what services are available to them locally and how they work."

The fair will offer blood pressure screenings, bone density screenings for post-menopausal women, foot type assessments, nutrition/weight assessments, oral cancer screenings and much more.

"One of our stands will allow people to use real operating room equipment to see what it is like during surgery. The Army Substance Abuse Program is bringing DUI goggles so people can see sober what they see when intoxicated," Kemp said. "We'll be offering tours of the laboratory, classes throughout the day on how to register and use TRICARE Online and TRICARE will be giving 30 minute classes and answering questions."

See FAIR, Page 5A

Happy Holidays from 3ID ...



Sgt. R. James Piper

Sgt. Bobby Stepro, Soldier of the Year, and Staff Sgt. Thomas Kapsh, NCO of the Year, wave to the crowd during the Hinesville Christmas Parade Saturday. The 3rd Infantry Division Band and the 3rd Inf. Div. Color Guard participated in the parade. For more photos of the Hinesville parade and the Jesup Christmas parade, see Page 6A.

Fire inspector gives back to community

Spc. Emily J. Wilsoncroft
Staff Writer

Hunter Army Airfield fire protection inspector and motivational speaker Kenneth W. Robinson tries to save lives — in both of his jobs.

"I'm just doing my part to give back," he said.

But as Robinson prepares to transfer to Fort Sill, Okla., from Hunter, many would say he has done much more than his part.

"He was a motivated motivational speaker and an asset to the fire department," said Jon E. Bairnsfather, a member of the program and a DPW engineer. "We

would lean on him."

Robinson has been a fire inspector for about 14 years, having started his career after finishing a tour in the Coast Guard as a fireman, and has been involved with the Motivational Speakers Program for three years.

"I originally didn't want to be a fire inspector," he said. "I wanted to do the same job as I had in the Coast Guard, but after my first year, I (found out that I) just thoroughly enjoy what I do."

"I'm preventing a loss of life," he added. "We try to promote fire safety throughout the community ... if I don't use what I'm taught, folks get

hurt."

After Robinson had spent about two years at the Hunter Fire Department, the DPW Motivational Speakers Program was started. Bairnsfather and David A. Balles, the program's director, asked Robinson to join.

The program sends volunteers to schools and organizations in the Fort Stewart and Savannah area to speak to youth about how to better their lives and futures.

"We talk to the kids about getting better study habits and motivating them to stay in school," Robinson

See INSPECTOR, Page 5A

Rumsfeld confirms he's staying on as Defense Secretary

Kathleen T. Rhem
American Forces Press Service

KUWAIT CITY, — Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld said Monday that President Bush asked him to stay on in his current position and he "enthusiastically" accepted.

"The president asked me if I would be willing to stay on, and I told him I would be delighted to do that," Rumsfeld told reporters traveling with him en route to a three-country overseas visit.

He gave no timetable to suggest how long he would continue to serve as secretary, but said the Defense Department has a lot of work that needs to be completed. He cited such programs and initiatives as the National Security Personnel System, rebalancing Guard and Reserve forces with the active force, adjusting the global force posture, and transforming the armed forces into a lighter, more adaptable force.

These things won't happen overnight, he said. "The task of moving an institution as large as the U.S. Department of Defense is a sizable task," Rumsfeld said. "It's the kind of thing that doesn't happen instantaneously. Great bureaucracies don't spin on a dime."

In particular, Rumsfeld said, adjusting the posture of U.S. forces around the globe is "something that needed to be done for

decades."

This force-posture update will involve bringing some overseas-based units home to the United States and "shifting our weight in various parts of the globe," he noted. The goal is to focus "more on precision, equipment, speed, agility as opposed to mass and sheer numbers."

The secretary said he feels it's important to contribute what he can to solving these issues DoD faces. "I feel fortunate at this point in my life to feel I can contribute to working on these important problems," he said.

Rumsfeld also said he agreed to stay on as defense secretary because he enjoys working with Bush. "He is a good leader; he is an excellent executive," he said of the commander in chief.

Also, Rumsfeld said, it is "an enormous plus" to be able to work closely with American servicemembers, whom he called "absolutely amazing."

He said he finds them amazing "whether they are out in the field" or "when you go visit them in the hospitals." He added that he particularly admires "the confidence that they have in themselves and in their professionalism, the confidence that they have in the work they're doing and its import historically."

"It's a thrill for me to be able to work with them," he said.

First commander takes reigns of 3rd Finance Co.

Spc. Robert Adams
Staff Writer

Maj. Richard Santiago became the first commander of the newly formed 3rd Finance Company at an assumption of command ceremony Dec. 1 at Marne Gardens.

Santiago and Master Sgt. William D. Hall will lead the 3rd Finance Co., which was transformed from the 24th Finance Battalion as part of the Army's transformation.

"Our main focus is to continue to improve the finance support for the 3rd Inf. Div. during Operation Iraqi Freedom Three," Santiago said. "We have already embedded finance support teams into all of the Brigade Combat teams, as well as the Division Support Brigade and Aviation Brigade."

When the division deploys, the finance teams will stay with the brigade and provide support to all the Soldiers throughout the duration of the deployment.

"While we deploy, we will keep track of the lessons learned to make the company better and improve the finance procedures in the future," Santiago said.

Santiago who is married to Evelyn Santiago has two children, Richard Jr. and Pablo. Prior to this position Santiago was the executive officer of battalion.

"He has a passion for this business and he loves to provide support and get the job done right the first time," said Lt. Col. Pamela R. Charvat, 3rd Soldier Support Battalion commander. "He has brought the 3rd SSB to a greater level of mission accomplishment and in this new command he will accomplish even more."

Santiago said, "What I expect out of my Soldiers is to use all of the Defense Finance and Accounting Service initiatives in order to improve our procedures while we transform our current concepts to support the future force."



Spc. Robert Adams

Lt. Col. Pamela R. Charvat, 3rd SSB commander, passes the newly activated 3rd Finance Co. guidon to Maj. Richard Santiago during an activation ceremony at Marne Gardens Dec. 1.

News



110th QM on the road again ... 2A

Sports



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Life & Times



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Weather Forecast

FRI

High Low

72° 46°

SAT

High Low

61° 39°

SUN

High Low

64° 45°

On the road again ...

110th says farewell to family, friends

Spc. Emily J. Wilsoncroft
Staff Writer

"In the words of a famous singer, we'll have a blue, blue Christmas," said Col. Brian R. Layer, Division Support Brigade commander, during a farewell ceremony as his 110th Quartermaster Company prepared to deploy to Iraq from its home at Hunter Army Airfield Dec. 2.

Although several 110th Soldiers echoed Layer's sentiments, most also said that they felt the unit was well prepared to go back.

"This is my third time (deploying to Iraq)," said Sgt. Donald Rolston, supply section sergeant. "It's getting kind of monotonous, but it's part of the job, you know, comes with the territory."

1st Lt. Rocky Torres, company executive officer, said although there are quite a few Soldiers in the unit who have never deployed, the training the company has received will be more than adequate to keep it going strong.

"The Soldiers are well prepped, they know what they have to do and they feel confident in their (noncommissioned officers)," he said. "I think the key is training, and these Soldiers are well trained for this operation."

One of the Soldiers Torres was referring to was Pfc. Anna Preciado, a supply specialist.

Even though Preciado has only been with 110th for four months, she said the deployment and being gone for the holidays was not an issue for her.

"I'm not too worried," she said. "I feel safe, and I know my higher-ups will take care of us."

As far as missing Christmas with her family, Preciado said she'd put it behind her.

"I called my family and said goodbye, but the people I deploy with are my family and my friends," she said. "I know I'll be all right."

When 110th arrives in Iraq, its primary mission in Operation Iraqi Freedom will be to keep the units it supports supplied with all the fuel they need, as well to receive, transport, issue and store that fuel — thus, its nickname, "Fuel Warriors."

On the Fuel Warriors' first OIF deployment in January 2003, the unit handled more than 200 million gallons of JP-8 fuel and established several bulk fuel site in theater in a seven-month period.

"Deployment is not a new thing for the 110th, said Lt. Col. John H. Sutton, 260th Quartermaster Battalion commander. "They have been the Army's go-to petroleum company, and they have continued to be always ready ... they are a team, they are professional and they are ready."

"As I look at this formation, I see warriors," Hutton continued. "110th Soldiers, you are in our thoughts and prayers ... you will make your nation proud."

During this holiday season, the Fuel Warriors are serving as an example of the Soldier's duty to complete his missions, no matter when or where.

"You'll do it the way Soldiers always have — by taking care of each other," Layer said to his troops before they boarded the plane that would take them back to the Middle East. "It's faith that will get us through this."

Although Layer's words were received with nods from the assembled crowd, Rolston also spoke for many of his colleagues.

"It's hot and it's hard, but someone's got to do it," he said as he joined his company's formation and prepared to accomplish his mission once more.



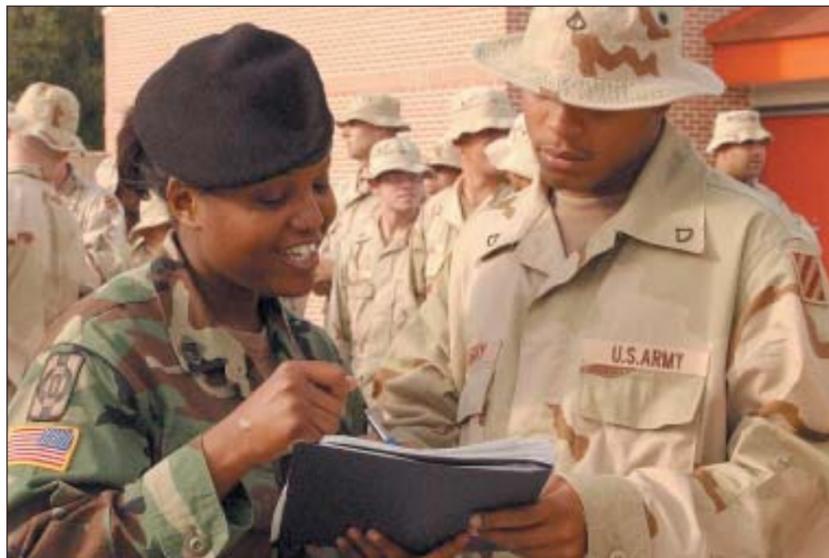
Photos by Spc. Emily J. Wilsoncroft

(Above) Sgt. Charles Duke III, 110th Qm. Co., hugs his wife, Denise, and son, Charles IV, goodbye after his unit's farewell ceremony at Hunter Dec. 2.

(Below) 110th Qm. Co. Soldiers stand in formation before the unit's pre-deployment farewell ceremony.



110th Qm. Co. Soldiers wait to say tearful goodbyes to friends and loved ones before their deployment at Hunter Dec. 2.



(Above) Pfc. Darrell Gregory, petroleum specialist, signs the Servicemen's Group Life Insurance form handed to him by Staff Sgt. Dale Langston, non-commissioned officer in charge of personnel, Dec. 2.

(Right) Capt. Landis Maddox, 110 Qm. Co. commander, ties his 7-year-old daughter Courtney's shoe before his unit's deployment.



Tuskers get pierced for those in need

Pfc. Dan Balda

4th Bde.

Soldiers assigned to 4th Battalion, 64th Armored Regiment gave the gift of life by donating blood to the Savannah Community Blood Bank.

"We only expected about 60 Soldiers," said Shantel Moses, a blood bank employee. "But we had at least 85 come through."

Capt. Stephen Gifford, the personnel officer for the unit, said that Soldiers had been waiting in line since 9 a.m. in hopes of donating blood.

"You would never see these lines at a blood center," he said. "I really can't explain it."

Spc. Bryan Bradford, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 4/64, donated because he feels it's a worthy cause and he wanted to help people out.

"I had a friend who died in a car wreck and I gave blood when he died, and I've continued to do that for a while.

The threat of being pierced with sharp instruments failed to deter Bradford as well.

"I'm terrified of needles, but it's worth it to me, a little pain but a lot of gain," he said. "I feel that it's important for not just Soldiers to give blood, but everybody. Especially around the holidays, it's all

about helping your fellow man."

Kristie Waterfield, liaison to Savannah Memorial Health University Medical Center from Savannah Community Blood Bank said that Savannah Memorial uses about 800 pints of blood a month. That comes out to about 10,000 units a year that can be used for everything from the trauma center and general surgery, to cancer treatments and neo-natal intensive care.

"I called Sgt. Maj. Stanley to ask if he would be able to support a blood drive at his unit," Waterfield said. "I went to him because the military tends to be a more giving organization. The people understand the need for blood donation. They are the kind of people that will stand in line for four or five hours just to donate because they know what good its doing."

Gifford saw another reason for the want to donate blood.

"I think for the Soldiers, giving blood means a little something more right now because we are wearing DCU's (desert combat uniforms) than it would in garrison or a normal civilian environment," he said. "It also has a lot to do with the holiday events that we are putting on through our FRG (Family Readiness Group). We have sold stuffed bears for a more festive approach. But there is no blood substitute.

If I was the blood bank and I was expecting 50, I would be happy with 30. That fact that we got 80 Soldiers out there is phenomenal."

Gifford said that more than two-thirds of the unit's Soldiers were unable to give blood because of the small pox vaccine they were given in preparation for deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom III.

Regardless of the numbers that gave blood on Friday, Gifford thought that Soldiers fill a need for blood donation centers.

"When you are a Soldier you have a better understanding of how to rely on others for help and to give help to those in need," he said.

Gifford also compared the selfless act of giving blood with the unit's mission in Iraq.

"When we give blood it goes towards people we don't even know," he said. "It's the same thing in Iraq. We are helping the people of Iraq and protecting the U.S. without even knowing most of the people we are helping."

If Soldiers still want to donate blood and missed the date on Friday, the blood donation center is parked at the post exchange every 56 days. If there are any questions, please call Kristie Waterfield at (912) 350-6730.



Pfc. Dan Balda

Shantel Moses, a blood bank employee, takes blood from a 4th Battalion, 64th Armored Regiment Soldier during the battalion blood drive Friday.

JLUS helps military, community plan future development

Spc. Robert Adams

50th PAD

Military representatives, local officials and property owners gathered at the Hinesville City Hall for their second update and meeting of the Joint Land Use Study Nov. 29.

The purpose of the JLUS is to examine the land use patterns and growth trends of communities surrounding the Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield areas and to develop strategies that increase compatibility between their military operations and local development in the future.

"We want to maintain the mission of Stewart and at the same time achieve the best quality of life for the citizens that are in the com-

munity," said Honorable Thomas Ratcliffe, Hinesville mayor.

The meetings are an open house format where attendees can view draft maps and give comments on all of the tools and options that the planners have recommended to deal with land use issues around Stewart and Hunter.

"The study is an eight-month process, which kicked off in April, and we hope to have it wrapped up and have all the tools in place or at least identified by March 2005," said Liz Drake, JLUS planner. "This survey is important because it brings everybody from both sides to the table and gets them to think ahead and to collaborate on key issues."

Along with Hinesville, the survey group has had meetings in

Pembroke, Richmond Hill and Savannah to discuss the findings.

"There seems to be a very positive relationship between these communities and posts and all of them have expressed interest in keeping Fort Stewart healthy and operating" Drake said.

The survey group has taken aerial photographs of the surrounding counties and local cities around the posts, and identified noise, clear and accidental zones to find potential problems and provide feedback to benefit both sides and help with future planning.

The tasks of the survey group include establishing existing conditions of the surrounding areas, identifying incompatibilities, and finding potential development

areas and compatibility options for the future.

"There are many tools that we will look at that deal with compatibility options within or around these zones," Drake said. "They relate to information, coordination, public awareness, and strategies like reducing indoor noise in structures that are built within noise areas."

These findings help local governments understand where the areas are where there is potential noise, vibration (gun blasts), air safety, traffic and access, physical security and other operational impacts military installations have on the outside community.

"The Coastal Georgia area is the second fastest growing region," said Paul Smith, JLUS

planning director. "And because of this, there is a lot happening in the area that is not being reflected."

Over the next month, the planners are going to look at how the region is going to grow overall and still maintain compatibility with operations on both posts and the meeting will for these findings will take place around late January or early February.

"There is a very strong economic link, with the military pumping over \$2,000,000 a year into the regional economy," Drake said. "The bottom line is to maintain an economically healthy region, with Stewart operating at its best. Cities and counties can also continue to grow, but do it in a way that does not harm Stewart or Hunter."

VOICES AND VIEWPOINTS

Caroling can be fun ... if you do it right

Spc. Emily J. Wilsoncroft

Staff Writer

Since Christmas season lasts from the end of Halloween until New Year's Day here in America, I'm back to spread some more holiday cheer, as long as you promise not to strangle me with tinsel for doing so.

Here's what I'd like to know: what the heck has happened to caroling?

This lost art, which I also I like to call, "singing to people you don't know until they feel obligated to give you something in exchange for causing them to let all the heat out of their house," seems to have all but vanished from far too many people's lists of Christmas traditions.

As a young child, I accompanied my family and friends on many a caroling excursion, although the only song I knew very well was "Joy to the World," so everything I sang tended to morph into that.

Still, I always had a great time, and even though the people we sang to usually knew the last line of "Deck the Halls" was probably not "and heaven and nature sings," they still gave me candy before sending me on my way with a merry slam of the door.

That's what's so great about Christmas.

Can you imagine what would happen if you and a group of friends went to strangers' houses around, say, Easter, and when they opened the door, you burst into a jolly chorus of "Here Comes Peter Cottontail"? That's right, you'd all probably be committed.

But not at Christmas. No sir, when carolers come a-knocking during the festive yuletide season, even the biggest Scrooges feel compelled to stand in the doorway through at least one verse of "O Come All Ye Faithful."

Especially the line that says, "O come let us adore Him," over and over and over. One of the most memorable times I caroled, a man showed up in his doorway, naked from the waist up, just as our group got to that particular line. The guy was — oh, how shall I say this nicely? He was attractive, but in the sense that everyone is attractive to someone, and in his case it would have to be someone who's blind.

So anyway, we had no choice but to continue the last eight or so repetitions of "O come let us adore Him," and after each time, you'd swear this man was becoming more and more convinced that we wanted people to come let us adore *him*. Forget a Charlie Brown Christmas,

— Commentary —

t h a t year I think I g o t m o r e quality entertainment right in m y o w n neighborhood.

Speaking of entertainment, here I finally come to my real point.

The reason I want more people to start going caroling again is because I've come up with some great ways to make the singers feel reeeeeeeally uncomfortable as they stand on my porch.

Okay, since you begged me by continuing to read this, I'll tell you what they are.

- As the carolers begin to serenade you, smile as though they are your new best friends, and then start singing along — but the song you chime in with must be a totally different one than theirs. Like, if they're emotionally crooning "Silent Night," you start with, oh, "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer," at the top of your lungs. If they back away, follow them to every remaining house, getting louder with each step.
- Weep uncontrollably.
- Come to the door hold-

ing a menorah, and when they finish, invite them in for latkes. Then request the "Dreidel Song."

- Accompany them on your accordion, a la the polka band in "Home Alone."

- Clamp your hands over your ears and start screaming in pain.

- Bring out a plate of cookies, and tell them they can have one if they leave.

- Call out your dog and tell it, "Stay" as they sing. Then walk back inside.

- After the first song, exclaim, "Again! Again!" Repeat until you can no longer hold your laughter in.

- Walk up to them within about an inch of their faces, stare at the ground and stay that way until they're done. Then turn around, walk inside and slam the door.

Trust me, you'll never look at Christmas caroling the same way again.

At least, I never have.

So carry on the tradition, don't be shy! You could potentially be someone's primary form of amusement this year.

After all, if there's ever a time when you can get away with half the stuff I've recommended, that time is Christmas.

Now go on, make me proud ... and hey, while you're at it, make me some cookies.

That's what I call holiday spirit.



Marne Voice

THE FRONTLINE

Readers respond to the question:

"What is your favorite Christmas experience?"

"Spending time with my family."

**Sgt. Derek Swenson
549th MP Company**



"Being together with my whole family, because that doesn't happen too often."

**Mia Palmer
AAFES
Concessionaire**



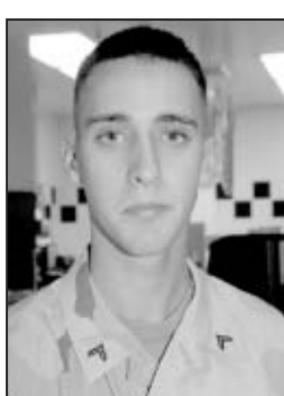
"Watching my daughter open her first Christmas presents."

**Sgt. Terral Lassiter
HHSC, STB**



"Sitting by the fire with my family Christmas day."

**Cpl. Nick Celesky
3/69 Armor**



"Having to wait to open my Christmas presents."

**Sgt. Belinda Papin
260th QM Bn.**



"Getting a car for Christmas."

**Naemi Cavazos
spouse**



Two Days We Should Not Worry

There are two days in every week about which we should not worry, two days which should be kept free from fear and apprehension. One of these days is Yesterday with all its mistakes and cares, its faults and blunders, its aches and pains. Yesterday has passed forever beyond our control. All the money in the world cannot bring back Yesterday. We cannot undo a single act we performed; we cannot erase a single word we said. Yesterday is gone forever. The other day we should not worry about is Tomorrow with all its possible adversities, its burdens, its large promise and its poor performance; Tomorrow is also beyond our immediate control. Tomorrow's sun will rise, either in splendor or behind a mask of clouds, but it will rise. Until it does, we have no stake in Tomorrow, for it is yet to be born. This leaves only one day, Today. Any person can fight the battle of just one day. It is when you and I add the burdens of those two awful eternities Yesterday and Tomorrow that we break down. It is not the experience of Today that drives a person mad, it is the remorse or bitterness of something which happened Yesterday and the dread of what Tomorrow may bring. Let us, therefore, Live but one day at a time.

— Author Unknown, Source Unknown

Season's Greetings from the Frontline staff wishing you a safe and happy holiday season.



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Write a letter to the editor!
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FAIR

from page 1A

Flu shots will also be available for beneficiaries who meet the CDC's criteria during this season's flu vaccine shortage. The following eligible beneficiaries will be vaccinated at the fair: adults aged 65 and older; persons aged 2 to 64 with underlying chronic medical conditions; all women who will be pregnant during the influenza season; residents of nursing homes and long-term

care facilities; children aged 6 months to 18 years on chronic aspirin therapy; health-care workers involved in direct patient care; out-of-home caregivers and household contacts of children aged less than 6 months

So mark your calendars and take this opportunity to get to know your hospital. For more information, call Laurie Kemp at 370-6662.

Health Fair Highlights

Flu shots will be available for beneficiaries with a valid military ID who meet the following Centers for Disease Control and Prevention criteria:

- adults aged 65 years and older
- persons aged 2 to 64 with underlying chronic medical conditions
- all women who will be pregnant during the influenza season
- residents of nursing homes and long-term care facilities
- children aged 6 months to 18 years on chronic aspirin therapy
- health-care workers involved in direct patient care
- out-of-home caregivers
- household contacts of children aged less than 6 months

Find out what it is like being a surgeon by using real OR equipment.

Learn your foot type so you can find the best shoes for you.

Learn how you really see while intoxicated through DUI Goggles.

Do you know how to seek health care outside of the area? Do you have other TRICARE or dental questions?

Need to know who your Primary Care Manager is? Interested in losing or gaining weight? Do you know how to maintain your current weight?

Are you worried about oral cancer because you chew or smoke tobacco?

Want to see the inside of an ambulance? How about the inside of a medical evacuation helicopter?

Do you have questions about your medication? How about a quick class on how to use TRICARE Online?

Need great information about the hospital in general? Perhaps you're interested in a tour of the facility?

INSPECTOR

from page 1A

said. "We tell them that they can be successful regardless of their past or upbringing, no matter where they come from."



Spc. Emily J. Wilsoncroft

Kenneth W. Robinson, Hunter fire inspector, (center) receives a certificate of excellence from David A. Balles, Motivational Speakers Program director, (left) and Jon E. Bairnsfather, (right) a member.

"Ken does an excellent job talking to kids," Balles said. "We all talk from the heart, but his talk is more of a testimonial, since he also had to kind of pull himself by his boot strings ... it's going to be tough to lose him; he was good."

Robinson said that he feels rewarded all the time by his work with young people.

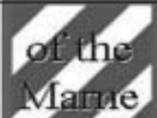
"It's an awesome feeling, just being able to touch someone and get them to a place where they realize they're not alone," he said. "One time a young man came up to me after a talk ... he gave me a big hug, and told me (the students had) never had anyone come talk to them like I did."

"Really and truly, it has been good all around," Robinson added.

Now, after five years with the fire department and three with the Motivational Speakers Program, Robinson is moving on to a fire inspector position in Fort Sill, OK.

Robinson said his time spent in Georgia "has been wonderful," but that neither he nor his wife had family in the area, and both would be closer to home at Sill.

"We have family in North Texas, so this is like coming home," he said. "Working here has been a fantastic experience, I loved it, and without a doubt I know I've grown in my position ... but now I have new challenges."

R	RESOURCES	 
O	OPTIMIZE	
C	COMPLIANCE	
K	KEEP IMPROVING	
	Sustainable Fort Stewart/HAAF	

Holiday spirit fills streets of Jesup, Hinesville



Sgt. Jonathan M. Stack

A bus with Christmas lights representing Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer drives through the streets of Jesup Saturday during a Christmas Parade.



Photos by Sgt. R. James Piper

(Above) Santa Claus and Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer ride through the streets of Hinesville spreading Holiday cheer as they pass Saturday.

(Below) The Island of Misfit Toys from the Christmas special "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer" was one of many floats during the parade.

Sgt. Jonathan M. Stack

Members of the Wayne County High School band play a Christmas song as they march through Jesup.



DS3 designed to assist disabled Soldiers

DS3 Press Release

www.armyds3.org

The purpose of the Disabled Soldier Support System is to assist Soldiers by incorporating and integrating existing programs and systems that provide support services to severely disabled Soldiers and their families through a phased approach. These phases include; Phase I: Notification and Evacuation, Phase II: Medical Care and Board Evaluation, and Phase III: Reintegration into the Army or transition to civilian employment.

Phase I

Notification and Evacuation

The Soldier becomes a casualty (by either hostile or non-hostile causes). The Soldier is categorized as very seriously injured; seriously injured or special category; by the Chief, Patient Affairs Division, this initiates the DS3 process. SPECAT includes but is not limited to: a severe injury, such as loss of limb, loss of sight, or permanent disfigurement; long term disease that may require extensive medical treatment or hospitalization; or established psychiatric conditions such as Post Traumatic Stress Disorder.

Once the nature of the injury/illness is determined and the primary next of kin is notified, invitation travel orders are issued to qualified family members.

When the Soldier is evacuated to a CONUS medical treatment facility, DS3 assigns a Soldier family advocate to the case. The DS3 staff will provide assistance with and information on pay issues, options for continuation on active duty, the Disability Evaluation System, government and private sector employment opportunities upon retirement and many other topics as well.

Phase II

Medical Care and Board Evaluation

The Soldier arrives at a CONUS medical treatment facility where the primary effort is medical treatment. When the Soldier has reached maximum medical benefit, the physician evaluates the

Soldier against medical retention standards. If the Soldier falls below medical retention standards, they are referred in to the Disability Evaluation System. At this point the Soldier is contacted by a DS3 Soldier family advocate.

The SFA works in conjunction with the DVA representative to provide the Soldier and their family access to a network of information and resources that provide personal support and assistance throughout the process from initial injury to reintegration or retirement.

DS3 is available at any time to the Soldier and their family. If a Soldier experiences difficulty obtaining assistance or access to benefits, DS3 will facilitate the Soldier's link-up and communications with pertinent organizations that can assist in their rehabilitation and reintegration. FSA's also discuss the desired career path of the Soldier. Depending on the severity of the injury and the Soldier's career goals, medical discharge may not be mandatory. A Soldier does have input into their future career path.

The Physical Evaluation Board returns their recommendations for the injured Soldier. At this time the Soldier may be medically retired via Permanent Disability Retirement List or be placed on Temporary Disability Retirement List, or the soldier may be found fit and returned to duty.

If the Soldier is medically retired or placed on the TDRL, the Army Career and Alumni Program will counsel and complete the Preseparation Counseling Checklist (DD Form 2648) with the Soldier, or his authorized representative. At this point the Soldier is contacted by both a representative from the Department of Veterans Affairs and by a DS3 SFA.

The DVA representative works with the Soldier and their family to ensure that they receive appropriate medical care, rehabilitation and if necessary subsequent medical/treatment in a caring, efficient, and expeditious manner. Additionally, ACAP will pro-

vide the Soldier transition and or employment assistance consistent with the Soldier's overall medical recovery plan. If the soldier is placed on the TDRL they are given the necessary time to for their condition to stabilize (not to exceed a period of five years), and are then be reevaluated (between 12 to 18 months) to determine whether or not that condition has stabilized for rating purposes.

Phase III

Retirement and Reintegration

This phase transitions the Soldier into the civilian community or returns the Soldier to duty.

The Soldier is enrolled in VA medical care. A DVA caseworker will assist the disabled Soldiers in applying for VA health care by helping them in complete the Application for Health Benefits (VA Form 10-10 EZ).

This form can be obtained online at Veterans Affairs Web site. Completed applications must be signed and dated and may be returned to any VA health care facility. ACAP will continue to provide transition and employment assistance to the Soldier as requested.

If a soldier is medically retired, or separated, then upon their request they will be placed in contact with a Veteran Service Officer of their choice. The VSO facilitates the transition into the civilian community, but does not take the place of the VA Representative.

The VSO places the injured soldier in contact with veterans who have been similarly injured. These peers facilitate rehabilitation by providing the Soldier with personal insight into their disability. The VSO also provides a network of resources to assist in vocational rehabilitation, housing and transportation needs, and employment.

Each Soldier will have a military sponsor unit that is in geographic proximity to the Soldier after medical treatment. This sponsor unit aids in transition through local military facility support. This may include facilitating moving of household goods, financial matters or by providing medical or shopping facilities on the local installation.



Sgt. Lorie Jewell

Capt. David Rozelle talks about his prosthetic foot with Sgt. Justin Callahan during a visit to Walter Reed Army Medical Center, where Rozelle spent time talking to fellow amputee Soldiers after getting fitted for a new swim leg prosthetic.

A sponsor from the unit will visit with the Soldier upon retirement and then periodically throughout the next five years to ensure that the Soldier is adjusting to civilian life.

The VA continues a relationship with the Soldier to ensure that the Soldier receives the benefits for which they are qualified. TRICARE provides medical assistance and information on benefits, eligibility, and insurance options.

The Installation Management Agency provides normal retirement support. Each installation has an assigned Retirement Services Officer who is responsible for providing information and

support to the retiree. For more information on retirement, or a complete list of RSO's, please visit the Army G-1 Retirement Services Web site.

DS3 will provide follow-up and reactive assistance for a period of five years following the medical retirement and facilitate the Soldiers' integration into their local communities.

Contact the Disabled Soldier Support System by calling 1-800-833-6622 (between 8 a.m. to 4:30 a.m. EST, Monday through Friday.) or through the Army DS3 Web site.

The Army DS3 can also be reached via e-mail at ArmyDS3@hoffman.army.mil.

Are you ETSing, PCSing,
 deploying or going on leave?
 Here are a couple ...



FORMS TO KNOW

PS Form 8076

Authorization to Hold Mail

- * Authorizes the Post Office to hold your mail for three but not more than 30 days.
- * Have your mail held at the Post Office until you complete your leave.
- * Ensure your mail is taken care of until you get your new mailing address.
- * Can be done by calling 1-800-ASK-USPS or online at www.usps.com.

PS Form 3575

Official Mail Forwarding Change of Address Order

- * Authorizes the Post Office to forward your mail to your new mailing address.
- * Stays in effect for one year.
- * Used for individuals, families, and businesses.
- * Can be done by calling 1-800-ASK-USPS or online at www.usps.com.

Where do you fit?

Serving customers in the best way possible at Stewart, Hunter

**FS/HAAF
Garrison Commander's
PERMISSION SLIP**

ASK YOURSELF:

IS IT THE "BEST VALUE"
FOR THE CUSTOMER??

IS IT LEGAL AND ETHICAL??

IS IT DOABLE??

AM I WILLING TO STAND UP AND
FIGHT FOR IT AND TAKE
FULL RESPONSIBILITY??

If the answers are "YES", don't ask
Permission. You already have it!!

JUST DO IT!!!

**FS/HAAF GARRISON
"FORT STEWART AFTER NEXT"
CUSTOMER FOCUSED SERVICE**

Fort Stewart/Hunter Army Airfield Empowerment Statement

Our staff must be empowered to meet the needs of the customer. Each individual staff member must be able to say:

- I have a clear vision of our mission, my job, my authority and my goals.
- My ideas and opinions are considered by management to be valued input.
- I am entrusted with necessary authority and resources to do my job.
- I have an input into the training I need to meet my customers' requirements.
- I am allowed to make all decisions within my professional competence.
- I am encouraged to implement initiatives for continuous process improvement.
- I am encouraged to be creative and to take risks in pursuit of customer service.
- I am not burdened with unnecessary approvals, checks or limits on what I do.
- I am expected to make errors; management asks only that I learn from them.
- I am allowed to share in all information affecting my future and my job.

Customer Contact Goals

Customers are the purpose of our work

Customers should be greeted with a smile and addressed by name and rank, as appropriate.

Customers are entitled to be treated with respect and dignity.

Customers always have the right to speak with a manager.

Customers should be told how long it will take to solve a problem.

Customers should be given useful alternatives or a referral if a problem cannot be solved.

Customers should be contacted promptly when problems are solved, or given progress reports if resolution is lengthy.

Telephones should be answered within three rings.

Callbacks should be completed by the next work day.

A person should answer the phone whenever possible.

E-mail correspondence should reflect the highest possible professional etiquette.

POLICE REPORTS

- **Subject:** Private 1st Class, 26-year-old male, 1st Bde.
- **Charges:** False report of a crime, false official statement
- **Location:** Fort Stewart

- **Subject:** Specialist, 24-year-old female, Div. Sup. Bde.
- **Charges:** Driving while license suspended, expired tags, defective headlight
- **Location:** Fort Stewart

- **Subject:** Staff Sergeant, 27-year-old male, separate unit
- **Charges:** Sodomy, child molestation, indecent acts upon a child, child pornography
- **Location:** N. Charleston, N.C.

- **Subject:** Civilian, 28-year-old male
- **Charge:** Trucks using multi-lane highways
- **Location:** Hunter

- **Subject:** Private, 28-year-old male, separate unit
- **Charge:** Failure to obey order
- **Location:** Hunter

- **Subject:** Sergeant, 26-year-old female, Avn. Bde.
- **Charges:** Driving on suspended or revoked license, speeding (53/40), no insurance, improper transfer of license plate
- **Location:** Hunter

- **Subject:** Specialist, 26-year-old female, Avn. Bde.

- **Charges:** No insurance, driving vehicle with invalid registration
- **Location:** Hunter

- **Subject:** Corporal, 23-year-old female, separate unit
- **Charges:** Speeding 80/65, driving on a suspended license, no proof of insurance
- **Location:** Pooler

- **Subject:** Private, 22-year-old male, 4th Bde.
- **Charges:** Driving while license suspended, failure to stop at posted stop sign
- **Location:** Fort Stewart

- **Subject:** Private, 26-year-old male, 4th Bde.
- **Charges:** Driving while license suspended, failure to obey a traffic control device
- **Location:** Fort Stewart

- **Subject:** Civilian, 19-year-old male
- **Charges:** Driving while license suspended, speeding 68/55
- **Location:** Fort Stewart

- **Subject:** Sergeant, 23-year-old male, 1st Bde.
- **Charges:** Interfering with 911 call, theft by taking, simple battery
- **Location:** Hinesville

- **Subject:** Specialist, 20-year-old

male, 2nd Bde.

- **Charge:** Larceny of AAFES property
- **Location:** Fort Stewart

- **Subject:** Sergeant, 26-year-old male, Div. Sup. Bde.
- **Charges:** Simple battery, simple assault, cruelty to children
- **Location:** Hinesville

- **Subject:** Specialist, 23-year-old male, 4th Bde.
- **Charges:** Larceny of government property — munitions, wrongful appropriation of government property, failure to obey a general order — weapons
- **Location:** Fort Stewart

- **Subject:** Private 1st Class., 26-year-old male, 1st Bde.
- **Charges:** Rape, indecent assault on a child, possession of child pornography, child abuse
- **Location:** Fort Stewart

- **Subject:** Private 1st Class, 19-year-old male, 2nd Bde.
- **Charge:** Wrongful use of mari-

juana

- **Location:** Fort Stewart

- **Subject:** Private 1st Class, 24-year-old male, 2nd Bde.
- **Charges:** Failure to obey general order — weapons, wrongful possession of steroids
- **Location:** Fort Stewart

- **Subject:** Civilian, 51-year-old male
- **Charges:** Wrongful possession of marijuana
- **Location:** Fort Stewart

- **Subject:** Specialist, 24-year-old male, Div. Sup. Bde.
- **Charge:** Possession of marijuana
- **Location:** Hinesville

- **Subject:** Private, 24-year-old female, 2nd Bde.
- **Charge:** Wrongful use of marijuana
- **Location:** Hinesville

- **Subject:** Private 1st Class, 20-year-old male, 1st Bde.
- **Charge:** Wrongful use of cocaine
- **Location:** Hinesville

- **Subject:** Staff Sergeant, 34-year-old male, separate unit
- **Charges:** Driving under the influence, weaving over roadway

- **Location:** Walthourville

- **Subject:** Specialist, 22-year-old male, 4th Bde.
- **Charge:** Driving under the influence
- **Location:** Hinesville

- **Subject:** Sergeant, 23-year-old male, 4th Bde.
- **Charge:** Driving under the influence
- **Location:** Hinesville

- **Subject:** Specialist, 24-year-old male, 2nd Bde.
- **Charge:** Drunk/disorderly conduct
- **Location:** Richmond Hill

- **Subject:** Specialist, 20-year-old male, 1st Bde.
- **Charge:** Failure to appear
- **Location:** Hinesville

- **Subject:** Private 1st Class, 21-year-old male, 4th Bde.
- **Charge:** Deposit account fraud
- **Location:** Hinesville

- **Subject:** Private 1st Class, 20-year-old male, 2nd Bde.
- **Charge:** No insurance
- **Location:** Fort Stewart

- **Subject:** Sergeant, 33-year-old male, 2nd Bde.
- **Charges:** Sexual battery, public indecency
- **Location:** Savannah

3ID IN BRIEF

Stewart

CID Reward
A reward of \$1,000.00 is being offered for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person(s) responsible for the Aggravated Assault (shooting) of a U.S. Army service member on Fort Stewart.

On Oct. 17, person(s) unknown in a dark colored, American four-door sedan with tinted windows, shot a service member in the leg with a pistol.

Anyone having knowledge of the incident, and not wanting to be identified, will be briefed on available options in maintaining their confidentiality.

Those with information concerning this matter are encouraged to call the U.S. Army CID office located at Fort Stewart at (912) 767-5030, or the Military Police Desk, Fort Stewart at (912) 767-4895.

Wild Adventurers
Buses depart Bldg. 443 Dec. 18, 8 a.m. for Wild Adventures Theme Park in Valdosta, Ga., returning 8 p.m.
The cost is \$43 per person and includes transportation

and admission. For more information call 767-8609.

Red Cross CPR Instructors
If you are a current CPR/First Aid Instructor with the American Red Cross, you need to register with the Savannah Chapter - Liberty Branch to keep your certification current.
You can call (912) 876-3975 or visit the local office in the Winn-Dixie Shopping Center between Goodwill and Pro-Fect for more information.

Unit Dental Appointments
From now until deployment, units will schedule mass appointments according to the following schedule.
2nd BCT early January, 4th BCT 13-17 Dec. and January, and DSB, STB, and Fires Brigade 13 Nov. to 17 Dec.
The POC for unit scheduling is Candice Walker or Denise Walker at 767-8150 or 767-8512.

Tree Lighting Ceremony
The tree lighting ceremony and arrival of Santa Claus is scheduled for tonight, 5 p.m. on the front lawn of Bldg. 1.

Hunter

Christmas Toy Drive
The Hunter Commissary is conducting a Toy Drive now through Dec. 18 to collect toys to be distributed to needy military families based at Hunter. The commissary is asking for new, unwrapped toys for boys and girls ages 2 through 12.
Contact Marcus McDonald or Linda Harrington at 352-5007/5711 for more information.

Road Closure
Due to the installation of a new sewer line, the intersections of Gannam Ave. and S. Perimeter Rd. (near the youth sports fields) and Gannam Ave. between Farie Dr. and Oliver Ave. will be closed to vehicular traffic until Friday.
During these dates, motorists may access Wilson Acres housing area by the side street off Wilson Blvd. In the vicinity of the Wilson Gate.

Wild Adventurers
Buses depart Outdoor Recreation Area Dec. 18, 8 a.m. for Wild Adventures Theme Park in Valdosta, Ga., and return at 8 p.m.
The cost is \$43 per person and includes transportation and admission.

For more information call 767-8609.

Hayride lights tour
Participants meet at ACS, Dec. 20, 6 p.m. for tour of the holiday lights on post and return at 7 p.m. for hot apple cider.

Jazzercise
Jazzercise programs are being offered at the Hunter Army Airfield Fitness Center Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 9-10 a.m. Classes are free; sign up at any time. For more information call Lori O'Neill at 459-0161.

Winterize Your Boat
Class will be held at Outdoor Recreation Center Saturday at 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. For more information call 352-5722.

My Soldier and Me Ball
This is a ball for Soldiers and their children, an opportunity for mom or dad to put on their dress blues and let the children experience a military formal. Music and dancing will follow dinner, Sunday, 5 p.m. at Club Stewart.
The cost is \$13 per person. For more information call Tonia Lambert at 369-7082.

Winn /Tuttle

Health Fair
Join us at Winn Saturday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Winn Health Fair. This will be a chance to learn about your health care resources, but it is also an opportunity to have some healthy interactive fun.

Get your flu shot. Eligible beneficiaries are those who meet the following criteria and have a valid military ID:

- adults aged 65 years and older;
- persons aged 2 through 64 years with underlying chronic medical conditions;
- all women who will be pregnant during the influenza season;
- residents of nursing homes and long-term care facilities;
- children aged 6 months-18 years on chronic aspirin therapy;
- health-care workers involved in direct patient care; and
- out-of-home caregivers and household contacts of children under age 6 months.

Learn your foot type so you can find the best shoes for you.
Learn how you really see while intoxicated through DUI Goggles.

Do you know how to seek health care outside of the area? Do you have other TRICARE or dental questions? Need to know who your Primary Care Manager is? Interested in losing or gaining weight? Do you know how to maintain your current weight? Do you have questions about your medication? How about a quick class on how to use TRICARE Online?
For more information, call 370-6662.

Holiday Schedule
Tuttle will be closed Dec. 23, 24 and 31. Services at Winn will be limited Dec. 23, 24 and 31. The Winn main pharmacy will be open 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Dec. 23.

Update DEERS
Beneficiaries must keep their DEERS information up-to-date. Winn and Tuttle use DEERS information to contact you regarding referrals and appointments. DEERS information can be updated by calling 1-800-538-9552, visiting: www.tricare.osd.mil/deers/default.cfm or stopping by Building 253.



Marne TV

December 2004 Schedule

Marne TV can be found on Comcast Cable Channel 16 every weekday. Tune in to the Marne Report six times a day for the latest from Stewart and Hunter.

5 a.m. Army	Noon MARNE REPORT
Newswatch	1 p.m. Air Force News
5:30 a.m. MARNE REPORT	4:30 p.m. Navy News
6:30 a.m. Air Force News	5 p.m. MARNE REPORT
7 a.m. Navy News	6 p.m. Army
7:30 a.m. Army	Newswatch
Newswatch	6:30 p.m. Air Force News
8 a.m. MARNE REPORT	7 p.m. Navy News
9 a.m. Air Force News	10 p.m. MARNE REPORT
9:30 a.m. Navy News	11 p.m. Army
11:30 a.m. Army	Newswatch
Newswatch	Midnight MARNE REPORT

Soldier shares Iraq experience with hometown through SRAP

Cynthia Rivers-Womack

Army Recruiting Battalion, Jacksonville, Fla.

Spc. Lauren Snell is dressed in a black, long knit dress, casual, compared to the Class B uniform she wore while supporting the Orange Park recruiting station as part of the Special Army Recruiting Assistance Program. Her outfit is also a dramatic change from the desert camouflage uniform she wore in Iraq. Her hair is pressed back revealing a 20-year-old face and moon-shaped eyes that don't reflect the war she witnessed for five months during her deployment to Iraq with the 3rd Infantry Division.

From Oct. 11 to 22, Snell was part of the Army's Special Recruiter Assistance Program, which takes Soldiers who were part of Operation Enduring Freedom or Operation Iraqi Freedom to tell their story about their experiences on the frontlines to people in their community. She toured several locations in her hometown with recruiters and also spoke with students on the campus of St. John's River Community College in Orange Park. During her tour she talked about her experiences in Baghdad, the war, and why she joined the Army.

Through the SRAP, eligible Soldiers can serve on temporary duty up to 14 days at the recruiting station nearest their hometown.

During that time, Soldiers will work for the recruiting station by assisting with recruiting activities, speaking at college and community events, and participating in interviews with local media, according to Julia Bobick, public affairs specialist at the United States Army Recruiting Command headquarters, Fort Knox, Ky.

"SRAP participants are free to share their stories in their own words so that the American public can see and hear firsthand what it truly means to be a Soldier, as well as the pride each Soldier takes in his or her mission," Bobick said.

Spc. Snell joined the Army at age 17 as a challenge and a dare to "get away from Green Cove Springs, Fla." She tracked down the Army recruiter she'd seen on her high school campus, Sgt. 1st Class Christopher Johnson, who worked at the Orange Park station and told him she wanted to be in the Army.

Spc. Snell enlisted as an Administrative Specialist and in June 2001, soon after graduating from Clay High School, left for basic and advanced individual training at Fort Jackson and chose Fort Stewart as a duty

assignment.

She became a member of the infamous 3rd Inf. Div. Her Navy JROTC background allowed her to enlist as an E-2 and after 18 months, her tenacious, take charge attitude was recognized by her first sergeant with a promotion to specialist. Then came the reality check. In March of 2003, Snell said the first sergeant announced, "We're going to war."

Snell accepted this announcement with mixed emotions. She was not sure what the terrain of war would be like but in retrospect she said training and going to the field at Fort Stewart prepared her for it.

"Everyone is afraid to go to war. But the Army is like a big family, especially when you're overseas, and I felt protected with my unit," she said. Snell is the oldest of four siblings and knows the importance of family support and togetherness.

When her unit deployed to Kuwait it was the first time Snell had flown in an airplane. What further impacted her first flight was that she was going to war.

"At the border between Iraq and Kuwait, the 3rd Inf. Div. chief of staff told us we would be bombing Baghdad in five minutes, and as soon as I looked into the sky, it lit up," Snell said.

The journey from Kuwait to Iraq took the 3rd Inf. Div.'s 300-vehicle convoy two weeks. It was the first time that Snell had to "lock and load" and have a weapon at the ready.

"I got used to having a weapon. It was like carrying a purse. But this purse you never let out of your sight, and you didn't lay down just anywhere" she said.

When the convoy finally arrived in Iraq Snell said she was surprised with the greeting they received.

"The Iraqi people gave us an enthusiastic, warm welcome, waving American and white flags and cheering us when we arrived. And, wherever we went the children would run up to us glad to see American Soldiers," Snell said.

Snell worked at Headquarters, Headquarters Company 3rd Inf. Div. at Baghdad International Airport and became one of the most popular Soldiers there. She and another Soldier were the mail clerks for 400 units. "Everyone knew me because I delivered the mail," she said.

Snell admits the most harrowing part of her job was driving to pick up the mail.

"Our vehicle was accompanied by two armored vehicles and several others," she



Cynthia Rivers-Womack

Spc. Lauren Snell explains aspects of her job as an administrative specialist while deployed in Iraq during an interview with Bill Austin, managing editor, Clay Today newspaper, Orange Park, Fla.

said. But she said she always felt protected and never felt in danger in Baghdad because everyone looked out for one another. She emphasized that "among the Soldiers it was just like family."

Snell was deployed from March 2003 to August 2003, as part of the U.S. military contingent that first entered Baghdad. She witnessed the aftermath of the bombing and only knew of one person who was killed, an American news reporter she'd met that she'd earlier transported to another unit.

While in Baghdad, Snell toured some of the palaces and saw 24-karat gold elevators. But she also saw people living in deplorable conditions just miles away from those palaces.

"When I saw the differences in the way people were living it made me proud to be an American, and that I was doing something to make a positive change in Iraq," she said.

Snell said that college was not on her agenda when she graduated from high school but she's always appreciated the benefits the Army offers and is taking

advantage of the Army's education program by pursuing a nursing degree through Columbia College on Fort Stewart.

"The Army is not a bad decision and it's not as hard as it looks," was Snell's message when she spoke with students during her SRAP tour.

In her brief Army career she's been part of the Army at war, which is courageous for a young person who joined the Army not knowing what to expect. Her experience has been gratifying and perilous. I think about the good times," Snell said.

When Snell returns to Fort Stewart she will be preparing for another deployment. Even though she may be returning to Iraq, she's proud to be a Soldier and part of the 3rd Inf. Div., one of several units during Operation Iraqi Freedom to receive the Presidential Unit Citation for heroism and bravery during war, by displaying "extraordinary gallantry, valor, professionalism and esprit de corps...in the conduct of difficult, and hazardous combat operations to liberate Iraq from 19 March 2003 to 1 May 2003."

Fallujah reconstruction to begin

Pat Jones

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

BAGHDAD — Mounds of rubble choking the scorched streets caused the small six-vehicle convoy of Humvees to wind around, dodging potholes, remnants of buildings, and power lines drooping in tangles or lying on the ground.

Sporadic gunfire could be heard, but it was difficult to know from which direction it was coming, or how far away. Aside from the gunfire though, Fallujah appeared to be a ghost town. Occasionally, another small convoy passed on a cross-street, but no where were there any local people.

This was the scene that greeted Brig. Gen. Thomas P. Bostick, commander of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Gulf Region Division, and Rear Adm. Raymond K. Alexander, commander of the Marine Engineer Group, 1st Marine Expeditionary Force, as they surveyed the damage in the war-ravaged town of Fallujah.

The two commanders were assessing what would be needed to assist the minister of Industry and Minerals to restore the basic infrastructure to allow residents to begin returning to their homes.

A food distribution system must be reinitiated, officials determined. Shops and stores must be reopened; commerce resumed. Battered hospitals, clinics and schools must be patched up and reopened.

The reconstruction will likely begin with projects that will restore basic services, Bostick said. He identified an immediate need to repair power distribution lines, sewage lines and water treatment facilities.

Once the basic services are restored, reconstruction efforts will turn to hospitals, schools, clinics and solid waste management, he said.

But even restoring basic services will be a challenge, Bostick said. Most of the city's basic infrastructure was damaged, not only

by fighting but also by years of neglect, and sanctions.

Even where there are electrical lines still in place, they are suffering from years of neglect, said Maj. James Orbock, 445th Civil Affairs unit. Wires need to be stripped and replaced. Much of the technology and materials used in the infrastructure are from the 1950s, and need to be replaced, he said. The same holds true for much of the other basic services as well, he said.

But getting the basics up and running again quickly is essential to building good will with the residents of Fallujah, officials said. There will be only a short time, they said, to start reconstruction in the city and persuade residents that the interim Iraqi government is there to help them, before human nature takes over and citizens become resentful about what happened to their city.

Military engineers are drafting plans to begin making repairs to the city's infrastructure as soon as Fallujah is secure. As with any construction in a combat zone, security will play a large role in the time table for getting services functional again, officials said.

"Security is still a serious challenge," said Charles Hess, director of the Iraq Projects and Contracting Office, in a recent press interview. But he continued "... we are still moving forward, and we are still working to achieve our three main goals: one, to improve the infrastructure of Iraq; second, to improve Iraqi employment through the use of local Iraqi firms and subcontracting to the maximum extent we can to Iraqi firms; and then, finally, to build capacity within the ministries and within the interim Iraqi government, so that they can in fact do much of this work in the future themselves."

Ambassador Bill Taylor, who is the director of the Iraq Reconstruction Management Office, echoed the need for a rapid start to reconstruction.



Pat Jones

Brig. Gen. Thomas Bostick inspects a water treatment facility in Fallujah, an important utility needing electrical power to operate.

"The successful military operation needs to be followed by an equally successful reconstruction operation," Taylor said. "The Marines, who have been doing most of the work along with Army and working very closely with the Iraqi forces, have done a lot of preparation for the reconstruction in Fallujah. They have focused their attention on preparing for humanitarian work. They've pre-positioned a lot of stocks of food and water and medicine.

"They have been preparing to start up on small reconstruction projects, in particular those that will restore essential services," Taylor said. "So people are taking a look and assessing what the problems are with electricity distribution lines, for example, and sewer

lines, water treatment in order to get clean water to people. We will then be able to move into the smaller projects of schools and clinics, and then eventually get to the larger projects that will -- that have been planned for some time but have not been able to move forward during the past several months," Taylor said in the same interview.

"We are working very closely with the Iraqi government," Taylor said, adding that he has personally met twice with Minister Hassani on the reconstruction. "...The ministries of electricity and health and water resources, municipalities have gotten together with our folks in terms of the Marines and the Army, who are going to undertake these efforts, to coordinate that work," Taylor said.

Taylor pointed out that military

action must be completed first for the reconstruction to begin.

"... as you've seen, there are still some problems there. It's not totally done. I think we are in full control, but there are still pockets of resistance. And there's a lot of booby traps and other explosives that are around that will inhibit our work," Taylor said.

Once the security situation allows the rebuilding to begin, most of the work will be done by Iraqi construction firms, Bostick said.

"This will provide work for the local businesses and it will put money directly into the local economy," said Bostick. "Not only will this give thousands of people much-needed jobs, but it will give them a clear picture that it will result in a safer, more secure life."

CENTCOM News

Soldiers detain four AIF suspects

TIKRIT, Iraq — Task Force Danger Soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 252nd Armor Regiment detained four individuals Dec. 6, at about 4 a.m., who are suspected of being members of an anti-Iraqi forces cell in the village of Quiya.

The Soldiers confiscated four AK-47 assault rifles, one rifle, one shotgun, anti-Iraqi force propaganda, small arms ammunition and 9.2 million dinars in a house about 20 kilometers north of Jalula.

The suspects were transported to a Multi-National force detention facility for questioning.

Iraqi police officers join with first team of operation

CAMP AL-SAQR, Baghdad, Iraq — A joint U.S.-Iraqi cordon-and-search operation in three Al Rashid District neighborhoods netted several weapons and 20 suspected insurgents Dec. 5.

During 'Operation Falcon Freedom,' several hundred U.S. and Iraqi Soldiers, and Iraqi Ministry of Interior police officers searched the neighborhoods, all east of the Al Dora

Power Plant and along Baghdad's Highway 5.

Several weapons including three PKC machine guns and three rocket-propelled grenade launchers were found by Iraqi police officers. Numerous AK-47s were also seized.

The 20 suspects detained were all of fighting age, an official from the 1st Cavalry Division's 5th Brigade Combat Team said. Most were detained after a short fire-fight with Iraqi Soldiers and policemen.

Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, and 1st Squadron, 7th Cavalry Regiment, worked in tandem with the 304th ING Battalion, providing an outer cordon during the search.

Coalition troops in Afghanistan

VBAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan — Vice President Dick Cheney and Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld visited coalition forces deployed to Bagram Airfield before attending the Afghanistan Presidential Inauguration in Kabul.

Cheney and Rumsfeld had breakfast with troops and applauded their efforts in the Global War on Terror.

"A watching world has seen once again that the U.S. military



Staff Sgt Ashley Brokop

An Iraqi recruit receives help determining which eye is her dominant, during AK-47 weapons training at the Jordanian Royal Military Academy, Jordan.

is one of the greatest forces for good on this earth," said Cheney. "You're giving some of the best years of your lives in service to your country at the time when we need you the most. Your work is part of the worldwide campaign against terror. Your task is immense, it is urgent, and it is vital for our countries freedom and security. Your children and my grandchildren will live in freedom because of what you are doing today."

Cheney reenlisted 30 U.S. Army Soldiers from the regular Army, Army Reserve and Army National Guard in a ceremony following breakfast. He also presented eight coalition Soldiers with medals ranging from Army Commendation Medals to the Bronze Star for their contribu-

tions to Operation Enduring Freedom.

"America's willingness to lead the fight against terror has come at a cost. We've lost some of the finest people in our military whose names we will honor forever," said Cheney. "Recently we experienced the great loss of Lt. Col. Mike McMahon, a cavalryman with 3rd Squadron, 4th Cavalry. By their sacrifice and your continuing mission, we will one day overcome the threat of terror."

Rumsfeld also spoke to coalition Soldiers about the positive impact they are making for the Afghan people.

"Twenty-five million people have been liberated. These folks right here will look back in five years and know that they have

been a part of something enormously important for this part of the world," said Rumsfeld.

1st Inf. Div. Soldiers discover truck loads of munitions

TIKRIT — First Infantry Division Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 6th Field Artillery Regiment discovered several weapons caches hidden in palm groves near Baqubah on Dec. 6 at about 7:00 a.m. During "Operation Centaur Backbreaker," Soldiers discovered the caches after local residents reported that the landowner and men in masks visited the property and acted suspiciously.

Soldiers found 10 mortar tubes, 50 artillery rounds, 193 mortar rounds, 162 rocket propelled grenades, 21 blocks of plastic explosive, 3,840 rounds of 7.62 mm ammunition, and boxes of mortar, RPG and mine fuses and propellants.

At about 4:30 p.m., unknown assailants attacked Soldiers from Task Force 1-6 during the operation. The Soldiers returned fire without further incident. No Soldiers were wounded in the engagement.

The caches were transported to a Multi-National Forces for destruction.

Iraqis work on military discipline code

Sgt. Jared Zabaldo

American Forces Press Release

BAGHDAD, Iraq — The Iraqi Defense Ministry continues to work on revisions to the Iraqi Code of Military Discipline in an effort to respond more effectively to incidents of indiscipline in the Iraqi armed forces.

The code, put in place by the then-Coalition Provisional Authority in August 2003, gives Iraqi commanders authority to conduct investigations, hold disciplinary hearings and punish soldiers for any one of 14 enumerated offenses. It also authorizes nonjudicial punishment remedies such as U.S. Uniform Code of Military Justice "Article 15" punishments — usually amounting to fines and extra-duty type penalties.

An effort to augment other sections of Iraq's code is under way, which, according to Multinational Security Transition Command Iraq officials familiar with the project, is a purely Iraqi-driven effort to supplement the current code with Iraqi-written provisions.

In early summer 2004, Iraqi armed forces officials — including the defense minister, his general counsel and the acting Iraqi armed forces chief of staff — began looking at augmenting the code to more fully envelop the military disciplinary action needs of the armed forces, specifically to deal with more serious offenses.

According to Army Col. Richard O. Hatch, MSTCI staff judge advocate, some of those concerns centered on the fact that the punishments afforded in the CPA-enacted code were, in some cases, "deemed inadequate to deter soldiers whose units (had) been ordered to participate in operations from refusing deployment orders or deserting."

"Ironically," Hatch said, "an Iraqi civilian who aids a military deserter can be sent to jail for up to seven years under the existing Iraqi civilian penal law, but the soldier who actually deserts might only receive seven days detention under the current Code of Military Discipline."

What the CPA-enacted code does provide, though, according to Hatch, is the power to appoint civilian judges as military judges to hear criminal cases involving Iraqi soldiers. Recently, under the provision, the chief judge of the Council of Judges designated 23 Iraqi civilian judges — at least one per province — to serve as military judges.

Hatch said soldiers brought before the new military judges cannot be charged under the former Iraqi military laws, but can be prosecuted for offenses under the Iraqi criminal code applicable to civilians. To that end, legal officials in the defense ministry have been searching for solutions in the civilian code to deal with some of the "anomalies" of the CPA military code, and have identified a number of civilian offenses that could be applied to soldiers.

"There is a charge," Hatch said, "under the Iraqi (Civilian) Penal Code of 1969 that was not suspended by the CPA. Article 331 of this code makes it a felony for a 'public official' to breach his duties and responsibilities in order to benefit someone else to the detriment of the state.

"The MOD general counsel," Hatch continued, "has made a persuasive case that a soldier who deserts his unit in order to avoid hazardous duty meets all the elements of this civilian offense, and could be prosecuted before one of the new Iraqi military judges and receive significant jail time."

In addition to the civilian code punishment solutions, Hatch also indicated that defense ministry officials had begun drafting legislation to supplement the Code of Military Discipline, as another interim measure, reinstating a

small number of substantive offenses that were suspended by the CPA.

"Obviously, CPA Order 23 was put in place when the 'new' Iraqi army was just beginning to form," Hatch said. "Now we have thousands of members of the Iraqi armed forces training and conducting operations with multinational forces," Hatch said. "The Iraqi military leadership recognized that commanders needed additional tools."

The ministry's long-term goal is to develop its own code of military justice, Hatch said. "Right now, however, they have recognized some near-term needs and have moved out smartly to fill some gaps."

Hatch said what he's seen of the people working the issue has been impressive. "In working with the lawyers of the Ministry of Defense," he said, "we have encountered some very capable military and civilian attorneys.

"They understand the intricacies of the law. They understand the constraints that are imposed. And they understand that a commander must have effective disciplinary tools to maintain good order and discipline. I think what they'll end up with is a system that meets the international standards of due process and fairness, but yet will be a truly Iraqi code," he said.

Stryker Soldiers to get robotic battle buddies

Sgt. Lorie Jewell

Army News Service

ORLANDO, Fla. — Soldiers may have armed robots as battle buddies by early next year, according to industry and military officials attending the biennial Army Science Conference.

The Special Weapons Observation Reconnaissance Detection System, or SWORDS, will be joining Stryker Brigade Soldiers in Iraq when it finishes final testing, said Staff Sgt. Santiago Tordillos, bomb disposal test and evaluation NCOIC with the EOD Technology Directorate of the Army's Armament Research, Development and Engineering Center at Picatinny Arsenal, N.J.

"We're hoping to have them there by early 2005," Tordillos said. "The Soldiers I've talked to wanted them yesterday."

The system consists of a weapons platform mounted on a Talon robot, a product of the engineering and technology development firm Foster-Miller. The Talon began helping with military operations in Bosnia in 2000, deployed to Afghanistan in early 2002 and has been in Iraq since the war started, assisting with improvised explosive device detection and removal.

Talon robots have been used in about 20,000 missions in Iraq and Afghanistan, according to Foster-Miller reports.

"It's not a new invention, its just

bringing together existing systems," Tordillos said, who has been involved with the project since its inception about a year and a half ago.

Different weapons can be interchanged on the system — the M16, the 240, 249 or 50-caliber machine guns, or the M202 -A1 with a 6mm rocket launcher. Soldiers operate the SWORDS by remote control, from up to 1,000 meters away. In testing, it's hit bulls eyes from as far as 2,000 meters away, Tordillos said. The only margin of error has been in sighting, he added.

"It can engage while on the move, but it's not as accurate," Tordillos said.

The system runs off AC power, lithium batteries or Singars rechargeable batteries. The control box weighs about 30 pounds, with two joysticks that control the robot platform and the weapon and a daylight viewable screen.

SWORDS recently was named one of the most amazing inventions of 2004 by Time Magazine.

There are four SWORDS in existence; 18 have been requested for service in Iraq, Tordillos said.

So far, each system has cost about \$230,000 to produce, said Bob Quinn, lead integrator for the project. When they go into production, Quinn estimates the cost per unit will drop to the range of \$150,000 to \$180,000.

Quinn credits Soldiers with getting the project started.



Sgt. Lorie Jewell

With a weapons platform mounted to a Talon robot, the SWORDS system allows Soldiers to fire small arms weapons by remote control from as far as 1,000 meters away. The system, demonstrated this week at the biennial Army Science Conference, may soon join Soldiers in Iraq.

"It's a classic boot-strap effort," Quinn said.

Tordillos fielded a variety of questions while showing off the system in the exhibit hall. Soldiers wanted to know what military occupational speciality they have to sign up for in order to work with the system. There is no specific MOS for it, he said.

Other questions were more thought provoking. Does he envision a day when armed robots outnumber humans on the battlefield? Tordillos firmly said no.

"You'll never eliminate the Soldier on the ground," he said. "There'll be a mix, but there will always be Soldiers out there."